

Review of Fred Russell's "Nightmare" by the Editors

The story begins with a man waking up after 8,000 years who had been cryogenically frozen due to a terminal illness. He states, "It was cryogenics, everyone was doing it."

He wakes up in the 11th Millenia and had had a choice of eternal life, cure date of one's illness or a random date. He chose the Eleventh Millenia. Reasonable fees for the cryogenic process.

In his past "robots did the dirty work," and humans, "were buzzing around in Space."

We are not told of the exact date of his life, but it seems it was about the 23rd century.

In his time, the big screen in one's home is the primary mode of communication in what appears to be virtual reality

He says of his own time, "The wrong people are running the world." Namely "politicians, entrepreneurs and journalists."

He wants to see the future. Which is why he awoke, at such a distant time.

His son had said, "It could be a nightmare."

When he awakes he is one of the "Cryos."

His illness is gone, and he is youthful. He is soon joined with his wife and extended family. They had all chosen to awake in the beginning of the Eleventh Millenia.

In his time DNA had been blown wide open and all diseases were about to be cured. It seems like all disease had now been cured.

In his new life, he is given a smart phone to read what happened.

Space and medicine were the priorities of 3rd Millenia, despite the wars.

Wars killed 3 billion people on Earth. And outside the NYC dome is said to be a wasteland. And wars continued through the Millenia.

He reads a smart phone to tell him of the history in which 5 billion Cryos had already been created.

It seems like in the Fourth Millenia, everyone lives in domes, and it was the end of agriculture and artificial nutrients came into being.

In the Fifth everyone became partly digitalized and in the Seventh = totally digitalized. In the Eighth, everyone is integrated into the Central Unit.

People just take pills for sustenance and don't need a toilet or drugs and showers are not water, but rather a different liquid, and everyone seems to be immortal so there are no children. Wars have apparently laid waste to the outside of the walled city of New York.

But the New World wants to turn everyone who wakes up into a "Replicate," and digitalize everyone.

"You will have a mind life copies, but the computer will be inside of you and you'll still be yourselves."

Then he meets his wife and extended family and it is bliss. But he is tempted to love the android love dolls. However, his wife is eternally youthful, and he loves her.

The first stage of his New World is being assessed for health. The second phase is getting acclimatized. And the third and final phase is psychological counseling for the replication of one's brain.

And digitalization.

News is largely uplifting stories and announcements. Everyone watches every day for an hour.

Replication was the reality.

“Instead of having the experiences of one phase or another, you have this simultaneous experience in one place or another and experience the both as you experience them consecutively.”

But the protagonist decides to fight the digitalization and starts a rebellion, wondering if the Authorities are able to read their minds or are prepared to put down a rebellion. The action is swift, and the ending is somewhat of a surprise.

This book is exciting, and action packed with a number of unique ideas. It is a tour de force of science fiction.

Just like in our lives, it is all in your head. And no matter what World is agreed on, there will always be dissenters, radicals, etc.

Russell’s novel is a very real portrait of a possible future. There are many hypothetical possibilities for the future, this one is a standout in terms of its realistic plot and likelihood of coming true.